

Overtime By JoAnn Sherwood

DeWit will learn

It was bound to happen sooner or later. I think of it as "The Second Coming of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre". The difference this time being, the events took place in Regina instead of Chicago and the location was a boxing ring instead of a garage. Both massacres were probably equal in the amount of blood shed. Of course, despite my exaggeration, I am talking about Willie deWit's loss to Burt Cooper last Saturday in Regina.

The bookies in Los Vegas gave the edge to deWit, based on his height and weight advantage. If you don't know your boxing, you'd probably be justified in giving the advantage to deWit based on the physical stats. Both fighters had similar records entering the ring on Saturday. DeWit was 15-0-1 while Cooper was 15-0.

If the bookies followed the sport more closely, they would observe that there is definitely a tremendous difference in experience, despite what the win-loss records say. Throughout his professional career, Willie deWit has been criticized for the opponents he has fought. It appeared as if deWit were racking up the wins and not taking seriously the amount of competition he was facing. Last minute cancellations, every promoter's nightmare, resulted in lacklustre action for deWit.

The closest thing to competition deWit has faced was Alex Williamson, who fought deWit to a draw. The response from the deWit entourage to the criticism was that they did not want to rush their fighter; they wanted him to develop at the right pace. Oh well, so much for that strategy.

On the other hand, Cooper has gained lots of attention because of his punching power and steady improvement in the ring. Cooper has recently put on 15 pounds which enhanced his power against deWit. Perhaps deWit under-estimated the improve-

ment of his opponent.

This time, deWit was the one outclassed from the opening bell. DeWit hadn't fought anyone who could really be the aggressor. As soon as he stepped out against Smokin' Burt, he discovered that it would not be like the other fights. Cooper was willing to throw the punches as well as take them. DeWit just didn't know what to do when the punches kept coming back at him. He wasn't given a chance to think, so not knowing exactly what sort of attack to use, he became flustered.

Defence had been the weak point in the deWit arsenal but trainer Jackie McCoy had been working with deWit in this area for over a year. The Cooper fight was the first time deWit had been pressed to use what he had learned and his inexperience showed. DeWit was obviously dropping his left hand every time Cooper poked a jab. This left him wide open for Cooper's awesome right and Cooper made no mistake. Though deWit had not seen such punching power in a long time, he wasn't easy to knock out. It took four tries before deWit's corner threw in the towel.

The loss to Cooper may mark a coming of age for deWit. He now knows what it's like to face someone who can fight as well or even better than he can. It's a whole different ballgame that deWit will have to try to perfect. Maybe he doesn't have the skill, as some critics maintain. Right now, they're saying "I told you so", but they still can't be sure that deWit is a has-been.

Being the optimist that I am, I believe that this trouncing may do deWit a world of good. The fight with Cooper must have been a learning experience for deWit. He'll pick up things that you can only learn the hard way — in the ring. A more defensive-minded deWit should be the result. Expect to see a different Willie deWit the next time he steps into the ring.



Dalhousie's Michelle Young (2) and Colleen Doyle (1) go up for the block during the Tigers match against Moncton on Saturday. Photo by Russ Adams/Dal photo.

Tigers catch Panthers in third

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The hockey Tigers started out with a lead in their contest at UPEI on Saturday but they ended up coming from behind in the third period.

However, the Tigers were able to come back to beat the Panthers 6-5.

Dalhousie's Phil Priddle opened the scoring at 3:58 of the first period. Dave Shellington, who had three goals on the night for the UPEI cause, scored less than a minute later to tie the score at one. The Panthers went ahead at the 8:46 mark, but goals by Dalhousie's Paul Herron and Kevin Quartermain gave the Tigers a 3-2 lead after the first period.

In the penalty-ridden second period, UPEI scored two goals but the Tigers still led 4-3.

In the third period, Paul Herron tied the game at 11:16 but the Panthers again went ahead at 13:37 on a goal by Craig Jenkins. Greg Royce tied the score before his Dalhousie teammate Craig Morrison secured a 6-5 victory for the Tigers.

Dalhousie coach Darryl Young said that because of the penalty-ridden play, the Tigers dominated the play at times while at other times they just could not seem to get going.

"We knew that UPEI would be tough. We still showed them that we'll be ready for the playoffs," said Young.

By JOANN SHERWOOD

On Valentine's Day, the women's volleyball team squared off against the league-leading University of Moncton Blue Angels at Studley Gym. The Tigers received the best present they could ask for, beating U de M 16-14, 15-6, 12-15, 15-4.

Moncton got off to a 8-0 lead in the first game of the match. The Blue Angels were paced by their outstanding net play. The Tigers began to build up steam, coming up with the big blocks themselves. Strong serving by Paula Clark made the Tigers comeback a remarkable one, as they took the lead in the first game 10-9. Moncton showed why they were 12-1 going into the game, battling back to tie the score at 14. Dalhousie's team effort and communication on the court gave them the upper hand and allowed them to win the first game 16-14.

Dalhousie was able to keep

control of the match in the second game. The Tigers led throughout the game by scores of 5-0, 8-3, and 12-5. The home team won the second game 15-6.

Since this was the final league game for both teams before the AUSA Championships, Moncton was not about to give up that easily. The Tigers' defence slumped a bit, allowing the Blue Angels to hold leads of 4-0 and 9-1. The Tigers managed to shake off the inconsistency and give the visitors a strong challenge in the third game. Moncton did manage to win the game 15-12 and stay alive in the match.

The Tigers looked unbeatable because of their unyielding spirit. They really looked as if they wanted to win. Dalhousie again managed to set up the big kill and overwhelm their opponents on the other side of the net. Dalhousie coasted to 15-4 win in the fourth game.

Sandra Rice was the player of the game. She paced the Tigers with 27 kills, three service aces, and three stuff blocks. Colleen Doyle also played an exceptional game for Dalhousie. She contributed 25 kills, six stuff blocks. Moncton's Diane Laplante had 13 kills, one service ace and seven stuff blocks.

Dalhousie coach Karen Fraser felt the win was her team's best game of the season.

"We have been looking forward to this game all week. We were really psyched for it," said Fraser.

Moncton did not look as sharp as they have in the past and Fraser felt that the Tigers could capitalize.

"We were nervous at the first but even when we were down 7-1 (in the first game), I knew that we could take advantage on Moncton's mistakes once we settled down," said Fraser.